Lucas on the Osteology of the Paridæ, Sitta, and Chamæa.* — In this paper Mr. Lucas passes in review the principal osteological characters of these groups. The genera *Parus*, *Auriparus*, *Ægithalus*, and *Psaltriparus*, differ much from each other in cranial characters, and form a group much less homogeneous than the Swallows, Wrens, or Thrushes. *Sitta* differs so much from any of the Titmice that it seems proper to place it in a separate family from the *Paridæ*. *Chamæa*, as previously pointed out by Dr. Shufeldt (see Auk, VII, p. 278), appears to find its nearest relative in *Psaltriparus*, and not with the Wrens, as Mr. Lucas was formerly inclined to believe (see Auk, VII, p. 277). "It appears, then," says Mr. Lucas, "that in its cranial characters *Chamæa* is much like *Psaltriparus*, while the shoulder girdle is slightly, and the pelvic girdle decidedly, Wren-like. . . . On the other hand, none of the characters shown in the skeleton of *Chamæa* seems sufficient to warrant placing the genus either with the Wrens or Tits, but rather bear out the intermediate position indicated in the name Wren-tit." — J. A. A.

Lucas on the Structure of the Tongue in Hummingbirds.† — The tongue of the Hummingbird has generally been supposed to be tubular, but Mr. Lucas shows that this is not so, in a strict sense. Towards the tip "the tongue becomes forked, each division being a rod bordered by a wide flange of thin membrane," which curls upward and inward, so that toward the apex two very delicate parallel tubes are formed. The tubular part, however, "exists only for a short distance towards the anterior end, so that the common statement that the tongue of the Hummingbird consists of two parallel muscular tubes is quite erroneous." The width of the bordering membranes is found to vary in different genera. "Certainly there can be no sucking in the proper meaning of the word, since no vacuum can be formed at the back of the tongue, and liquids probably pass through the tubular portion by capillary attraction." A plate and figures in the text aid in giving a very clear idea of this peculiar mechanism. — J. A. A.

Lucas on the Bird Skeletons Collected by the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer 'Albatross.'‡ — These skeletons represent 33 species, mostly water birds, including *Creagrus furcatus*. A few notes are given on the osteology of the four species of Cormorants collected. — J. A. A.

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*Notes on the Osteology of the Paridæ, Sitta, and Chamæa. By Frederic A. Lucas. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIII, 1890, pp. 337–345, pl. xxvii.

†On the Structure of the Tongue in Hummingbirds. By Frederic A. Lucas. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIV, 1891, pp. 167–172, pl. iv.

‡Scientific Results of Explorations by the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer Albatross. XIII. Catalogue of Skeletons of Birds Collected at the Abrolhos Islands, Brazil, the Straits of Magellan, and the Galapagos Islands, in 1887–88. By Frederic A. Lucas. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIII, 1890, pp. 127–130.